Lawyers - 1928

Delaware

EVERY EVENING
WILMINGTON, DEL.

JUL 2 1928

NEGRO REGISTERS FOR DEL. STATE BAR

Lewis A. Redding, son of Lewis A. Redding, local mail carrier, 203 East Tenth street, has registered in the law offices of Judge Daniel O. Hastings, and promises to be the first Negro to be admitted to the Delaware bar.

Young Redding graduated from the Howard High School, this city, in June 1919. Entering Brown University, Providence, R. I., in the fall of that year, he made a notable record in scholarship, being an honor student unil the time of his graduation, in 1923. In his junior year he won the second Carpenter public speaking prize, and in his senior year he won the Gaston medal for oratory on an original essay.

Several months ago he passed the preliminary examination for admission to the bar, and if he passes the final examination, next February, he will be the first Negro attorney in the history of the state of Delaware.

Lawyers – 1928

STAR
WILMINGTON, DEL.

JUL 1 1928

FIRST DELAWARE NEGRO LAWYER IN MAKING

L. L. Redding Passes Preliminary Exam. and Registers With Law Office

The ice has been broken in Delaware. Within the next year, barring unforseen developments, this State and, particularly, this city, will have a full-fledged Negro lawyer who has already passed the preliminary examination for admission to the bar, has registered in the office of one of the city's foremost barristers and hopes to pass the final examination next February.

When this program carries, Louis L. Redding, whose father lives at 203 East Tenth street, this city, will be the first Negro attorney-at-law in Delaware. It is not because other brilliant young colored men have not aspired to membership in the New Castle County Bar Association that they have not been admitted. Many other attempts have been made in the past but none of them have been successful. Though the present age is supposed to be living down racial prejudices, it has remained for young Mr. Redding to break through the barrier of years and years standing.

The father of the young lawyer-to-be Lewis A. Redding, a local letter-carrier, has received many congratulations from friends and well-wishers upon the occasion of the graduation of his son from Harvard University Law School, Cambridge, Mass, the only Negro to graduate from this course there this year. The father certainly, through his patience and devotion, made it possible for the son to realize—almost—his ambition. The son was given the degree of LL. B. by the Harvard Law School.

The young man was graduated from Howard High School, this city, in June, 1919. He entered Brown University in September of the same year. He was awarded scholarship in each of the three years following the freshman year. In his junior year he won second Carpenter public speaking prize. In his senior year he won the Gaston medal for oratory on an original essay.

Mr. Redding's successful career at Brown University reached its zenith when, because of his scholarly attainments, he won the honor of being one of the three speakers for the commencement at Brown in June, 1923, upon which occasion he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

In September, 1923, he accepted the position as assistant principal and instructor in English at Fessenden Academy, Florida, a school maintained by the American Missionary Association. In September 1924, he accepted the position as instructor of English in Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga. In September 1925, he entered Harvard Law School and was graduated June 21, 1928.

Mr. Redding applied for registration before the Board of Bar Examiners for New Castle County. He successfully passed a preliminary examination and having registered in the law offices of Judge Daniel O. Hastings, he hopes to pass the final examination in February and fully realize his ambition by practising in his native State—Delaware.

Otner members of the family are Mrs. Lewis A. Redding, Miss C. Gwendolyn Redding who since her graduation from Howard University 1924, in Washington, D. C., with a degree of Bachelor of Arts, has been teaching in Kentucky and North Carolina, respectively. Jay Saunders Redding, who will attend the summer session at Harvard University, and will, at the close of the session, receive the degree of Ph.B. from Brown University in Providence, R. I. Miss Lillian M. Redding, a senior at Howard University, Washington and Mayson Redding, a senior in the Howard High School, of this city.

Seeking Admission To Bar in Delaware

LOUIS L. REDDING

Brilliant graduate of Brown University and Harvard Law School, who has passed the preliminary examination for admission to the bar in Delaware and hopes to pass final examinations next Feburary. He has registered in the law offices of Judge Daniel O. Hastings.

Lawyers – 1928.

Florida.

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR FAMOUS CASE

Jacksonville, Fla., March 2.—Another signal victory has been won here by Attorney S. D. McGill, nationally known lawyer, in having the case of Abe Washington placed in the jurisdiction of the supreme court of Florida. The exact date for the argument of the case has not been put on the calendar.

It will be remembered that the case has been contested in the lower courts for six years. Washington was lodged in jail Dec. 9, 1922, the day after he is alleged to have cut his sweetheart to death while under the influence of liquor.

At the first trial a jury of white men found him guilty and the court sentenced Washington to hang. Before the day set for his execution the state legislature passed a law making it illegal to hang and making electrocution as the method of capital punishment.

Because of the unfairness of the original trial, Attorney McGill became interested and entered into the case. In a writ of error he pointed out that Washington had been denied his constitutional rights, for the 14th amendment states that "No state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law." Washington was not allowed to have Race jurors.

The distinguished lawyer also pointed out that since it was illegal to hang a person in the state, the authorities had no right to send his client to the electric chair. In an opinion rendered by the supreme court on the plea of Mr. McGill for the high court to hear the Washington case it was expressed explicitly that Washington was being represented by an extraordinarily competent lawyer.

Lawyers - 1928

Illinois

GETS NEW POST

—New Hoffman Photo.

ATTORNEY NATHAN K. McGILL

General counsel for The Chicago Defender and former assistant state's attorney, who has just been appointed special counsel for Cook county at a salary of $100 a day. No such honor has been conferred upon a member of the Race in like manner. Attorney McGill was personally recommended to the position by States Attorney Robert E. Crowe. Associated with Attorney McGill will be Capt. Joseph P. Savage, counsel-in-chief and former candidate for county judge.

COOK COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION HAS ANNUAL MEETING

The Cook County Bar Association held its annual meeting last Friday evening at the Royal Circle Hall, 51st street and Michigan avenue. Reports of officers and committees were heard and officers were elected for the ensuing year.

Attorney A. Morris Burroughs was elected president, defeating Attorney Alva Bates by a small majority. The newly elected president is well qualified for the office, having had a wide range of experience in the legal filed.

Other officers elected were: First Vice President, Thomas H. Johnson; Second Vice President, Harold M. Tyler; Third Vice President, Samuel A. Beadle; General Secretary, James Moorehead; Financial Secretary, Arthur H. Bellamy; Treasurer, William K. Hooks; Attorney, Benjamin G. Pollard.

NOTED ATTORNEY PORTIA MEMBER

Mrs. Georgia Jones Ellis Makes Good Record in Courts

In keeping with a promise to make the woman's page of The Chicago Defender the greatest ever, Mrs. Nettie George Speedy has for this month given her readers, in conjunction with other accomplishments of women and girls, the second detailed account of the work of some woman of note who is doing things that [illegible] she has chosen for her subject. The activities of Mrs. Georgia Jones Ellis, a practicing attorney of Chicago, whose place of nativity is St. Louis, Mo.

Young Graduate

Mrs. Ellis graduated from the Sumner high school of that city at the age of 17 and completed the normal course for teachers one and a half years later. She was instrumental in organizing the Provident Association Training school to members of the Race desiring to become trained social service workers and was organizer and president of a club which sponsored and established the first infant welfare clinic for the Race in that city. She came to Chicago in 1916 and immediately became active in civic and political organizations. She is an acknowledged leader in political circles and is said to be one of the best informed women in political matters and well known as a public speaker.

She is one of the few persons to pass the Illinois state board of law examiners upon her first examination, and was the only person of our group and the only woman passing the board in November, 1925, though there were many applicants at that time. She worked for eight years as deputy recorder under Joseph F. Haas, recorder of Cook county, and was highly commended by him for efficient service. She has been for the past two years an attache of the domestic relations branch of the municipal court, and is the first woman of the Race to hold a quasi judicial position in the courts of Chicago. She worked with the cases of juveniles for many years prior to her election to the circuit bench. Mrs. Ellis has heard complaints in thousands of cases and has been instrumental in reconciling many warring couples and re-establishing many broken homes.

Elected to Office

She has been recommended by men and women of both races as an assistant United States district attorney, and if she should be chosen she will be the first woman of our Race in America to receive such an appointment. She is a member of the Cook County Bar association and the National Bar association and was the first woman to be elected to office in the National Bar association, which convened in St. Louis last August. She is a member of Olive Branch chapter, O. E. S.; the Gaudeamus club, National Association of Women's Clubs, Social Workers' Round Table, Urban league and Bethesda Baptist church.

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION PLANS EFFECTIVE DRIVE

CHICAGO, Ill., May 15.—(By A. N. P.)—To enable the Negro lawyers of the country to render an even more effective service to the organizations seeking to improve the civil satus of the Negro in this country, officers of the National Bar Association conferred here last week and laid plans for a comprehensive program to be developed at their annual meeting next August.

© A.N.P.
Homer G. Phillips

"The rapid strides being made by Negroes in the legal profession, the recognition given in such cities as Chicago, Washington, St. Louis, Gary and New York, where legally trained men are occupying high positions of public trust, in several of the communities holding judgeships, carries with our advanced position, the responsibility of being of even greater service to our group," said Homer G. Phillips, in addressing the gathering. "The Negro lawyer with adequate ability is better able as a rule to protect the interests of the Negro client because first of all he has a sympathetic interest and a keener understanding of the conditions which confront the colored petitioner at the bar," said Mr. Phillips. The National Bar Association is as broad in its scope and purpose as the American Bar Association except that it has no color restrictions. In fact, we have white members, a judge in St. Paul being one of our membership.

The officers of the National Bar Association are President, Homer G. Phillips, St. Louis; Vice President, John Q. Adams, Omaha; Secretary, C. Francis Stradford, Chicago; Asst. Secretary, Georgia Ellis Jones, Chicago; Treasurer, Alva Bates of the same city; regional directors, Leland Hawkins, San Francisco; George C. Ross, Denver; Orlanda J. Smith, St. Paul; William H. Haynes, Chicago; Ferdinand Q. Morton, New York, William C. Todd, Panama.

Bar Association Dedicates New $2,000 Law Library

With a host of lawyers, their wives and several leading judges in attendance, the Cook County Bar association dedicated its new $2,000 law library Saturday evening. The [illegible] were held at the Bird's Nest Tea Room, 4500 Michigan avenue, the temporary home of the association.

The program consisted of short talks by donors of law books to the library, followed by a luncheon and an inspection tour of the new home.

Judge David

Four Cook county judges, William L. Lindsay, Albert B. George, Joseph B. David and Francis Borrelli, in their addresses, praised the members of the profession for their wonderful spirit of progressiveness which had evidenced itself so tangibly, and congratulated them on the beauty and usefulness of the new library which filled such a vital need.

Judge Joseph B. David of the superior court, the only nonwhite member of the organization, declared that he was sorry the Cook County Bar association existed. He saw no reason why members of both races shouldn't be allowed to enjoy the privileges of the Chicago Bar association.

Judge Borrelli

"Really, I can't see the necessity of a Colored bar association," the judge said. "Lawyers ought to be the last persons to show signs of prejudice.

"The Chicago Bar association should admit all persons of proven character licensed by this state for the practice of law without regard to color or creed," he continued.

Dislikes Separate Associations

At this point, Judge David digressed long enough to recite the stirring events at and preceding the meeting of the American Bar association's national convention in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1903 when he voted "no" amid a wild chorus of "ayes" on a motion which thereafter excluded nonwhite barristers from membership in the American Bar association.

Judge David regretted his inability to equalize the application of the principles and rights of citizens granted in the United States Constitution and the wanton disregard of the traditions of the legal fraternity for justice and fairness in refusing our lawyers membership in the bar associations.

The principles expounded by Judge David were advocated several months ago at the annual session of the National Bar association by Robert S. Abbott, editor and publisher of The Chicago Defender, the World's Greatest Weekly.

Judge Lindsay Speaks

Judge William L. Lindsay, Democratic candidate for state's attorney, was greeted with an outburst of applause and cheers when he took the speakers' stand following Judge David. In his first sentence he indorsed the principles set out by Judge David. He expressed his delight at seeing so many practicing men and women barristers who had received their early training under him at the Kent College of Law.

"I want to congratulate the association on the success it has made since its beginning," Judge Lindsay said. "You have done exceedingly well and I hope these books that grace this library will encourage you men to do higher things."

Judge Lindsay was born in Aurora, Ill., Dec. 9, 1878. After completing his studies at Aurora public and high school, he matriculated at Grinnell college, graduating from there in 1900.

At the end of his college course Judge Lindsay returned to Aurora where he became an instructor of history and economics as well as athletic coach of the East Aurora high school. Realizing the limitations imposed by a small town upon a young man imbued with ambition to make his mark in the world, Judge Lindsay came to Chicago. From 1903 until 1912 he was an instructor of economics and mathematics at the Englewood high school. While at Englewood Judge Lindsay definitely decided upon law as a career and entered Chicago-Kent College of Law, graduating in 1906.

Gains Recognition

Gaining recognition as an authority in specialized branches of law, Chicago-Kent called him back in 1911 to become an instructor and professor of equity jurisprudence. Judge Lindsay is still a member of the faculty of that institution.

From 1917 until 1923 he was a master in chancery of the superior court of Cook county, being elected a judge of that court in 1923.

In 1926 Judge Lindsay was honored by being unanimously elected chief justice of the criminal court of Cook

ATTORNEY WILLIAM H. HAYNES AIDS PROSECUTION

Illinois Attorney General Oscar Carlstrom appoints Attorney Haynes to staff as special assistant to investigate crime and election frauds in Chicago. The outrages, including the tragic death of Attorney Octavious Granady which occurred during the primary elections of April 10, are to be delved into by the staff of six attorneys selected by the attorney general. In the photo, left to right, standing: William H. Haynes, Fred L. Fake and David D. Stansbury. Seated: Ferre Watkins, Frank J. Loesch, president of the Chicago crime commission, and Charles O. Rundall.

county by the judges of the circuit and superior courts. He spent 38 months on the criminal bench, during which time he attracted favorable attention because of his efficient disposal of criminal cases.

Judge George, chosen to deliver the dedicatory address, declined to speak at length, declaring that his predecessors had said all the good things that could be said. The judge made a plea for more law books, declaring that the library was at its beginning and it was up to the members to build it up and make it more worthy for the young lawyer.

Makes Plea For Books

Judge George urged the barristers to begin preparations for the building of their own home. He concluded by paying tribute to the good work being done by the women members of the association.

Champion J. Waring, ex-president of the association, delivered the first speech. Mr. Waring was the first president of the association.

Alderman Louis B. Anderson, who made a cash donation of $200 toward the building of the library, and Judge Francis Borrelli of the municipal court joined in congratulations to the bar members on their progress. Both men pledged their support to the organization.

Wants Prisoners Freed

Atty. Wendell E. Green, one of the first members to make a contribution to the library, besides pledging his support, made a stirring plea to Chicago lawyers to visit the Cook county jail and rescue hundreds of young men and women who are now behind the bars on flimsy charges.

At the outset of the meeting, Jesse M. Baker told the purpose of the meeting, after which he introduced the master of ceremonies, Atty. C. Francis Stradford, president of the National Bar association.

Donors to the new library include Judges Joseph B. David, William Lindsay, Albert B. George, Albert C. Barnes and Francis Borrelli: Attys. Wendell E. Green, C. J. Waring, James Edgar Brown, C. Francis Stradford, Walter Farmer, James B. Cashin, Fred Bernstein, Alfred E. Barr, Alderman Louis B. Anderson and Atty. A. M. Burroughs, president of the Cook County Bar association.

SPEAKER

WILLIAM J. LINDSAY

Judge of the superior court of Cook county and Democratic nominee for state's attorney, who was one of the principal speakers at the dedicatory exercises of the Cook County Bar association's new $2,000 law library Saturday evening. Several other judges and a host of leading lawyers, business men and their wives were in attendance. Judge Lindsay, a professor of equity jurisprudence, Chicago-Kent College of Law, has made an enviable record. He was formerly a master in chancery, superior court of Cook county, and former chief justice of the criminal court, unanimously elected by the judges of the circuit and superior courts.

Lawyers - 1928.

Iowa.

DES MOINES

IOWA

JAN 1 1 1928

SHOWN TO BE CANDIDATE FOR MUNICIPAL JUDGE

Charles P. Howard, Negro attorney, today announced the candidacy of S. Joe Brown for judge of the municipal court.

Mr. Brown has engaged in the practice of law in Des Moines for the last twenty-six years. He was founder and first president of the Des Moines Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People. He is an alumnus of the liberal arts and law colleges of the State University of Iowa. He has been active in civic and fraternal organizations and is now vice president of the County Council of Religious Education. He is a past grand master of the Negro Masons of the state. During the world war, although he was considerably past draft age, Mr. Brown volunteered and served in the army for a time.

S. JOE BROWN.

Mr. Brown's candidacy has been urged by the Des Moines Negro Bar association and by the Des Moines branch of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People.

Mr. Howard said that Mr. Brown will not make his campaign along racial lines but will seek the support of all races.

Mr. Brown was an independent candidate for the district bench in 1916. Tom J. Guthrie and John McLennan were also candidates and Mr. Guthrie was elected. Mr. Brown will make a speaking campaign that will take him to every part of the city. Howard will manage his campaign.

Missouri

Lawyers—1928.

CARL R. JOHNSON NEW HEAD OF STATE LAWYERS

ST. LOUIS.—The Harlan State Bar association of Missouri held its second annual session here May 25. Negro lawyers from Kansas City and of St. Louis made up the fifty members of the bar attending its session, there being but two lawyers in other parts of the state.

The two sessions for the day and a public meeting were held in the Pine boulevard department of the Y. M. C. A.

Carl R. Johnson of Kansas City was elected president of the association succeeding George L. Vaughn, of St. Louis. The next meeting of the association will be held in Jefferson City May, 1929.

Lawyers—1928

National Bar Association.

Nat'l Bar Ass'n. Ends Ann'l Meet

CHICAGO, Aug. 8—The National Bar Association closed its annual meeting in Chicago today. The association went on record as fostering all movements sprung to aid the advancement of the Negro in the field of medicine.

New officers of the national association are: C. Francis Stradford, Chicago, president; J. P. Harris, St. Louis, Mo., vice president; Irvin Mollison, secretary; Georgia Jones Ellis, Chicago, assistant secretary; W. S. Henry, Indianapolis, treasurer. Regional directors are: O. J. Smith, St. Paul, Minn.; Leland S. Hawkins, San Francisco, Calif.; Jesse Heslup, Toledo, Ohio; William C. Todd, Panama Canal Zone; L. Amasa Knox, Kansas City, Mo.

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION ENDS SESSION

Dr. Johnson Speaks at Mass Meeting

(Photo on Picture Page)

By EVANGELINE ROBERTS

Addressing the closing session of the fourth annual convention of the National Bar association at Wendell Phillips high school, Friday evening, Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president of Howard university, made a plea for a realization of individual duty and responsibility toward the humble and defenseless masses and a combined and concentrated movement utilizing every educational advantage in the fight for the recognition of our legal status.

Atty. Benjamin W. Clayton, in introducing Dr. Johnson, said: "We congratulate ourselves on the acquisition of a man as the speaker for this occasion who is at once a zealous advocate of our cause and a practical instance of the injustice of our oppressions. If splendid talents, great research, unsullied principle—if a mind matured in every manly accomplishment; if every noble public quality could entitle a citizen to distinction in this great nation, then surely Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson should be distinguished."

Seated on the platform were Atty. N. K. McGill, general counselor of The Chicago Defender, at whose home Dr. and Mrs. Johnson were guests during their stay in the city; Homer G. Phillips, retiring president of the national body; C. Francis Stradford, newly elected president; A. Morris Burroughs, president of the Cook County Bar association; J. P. Harris, St. Louis; O. J. Smith, St. Paul, Minn.; C. H. Calloway, Kansas City, Mo.; Atty. Georgia Jones Ellis and other officers.

Discusses Our Status

Dr. Johnson, speaking on the "Legal Profession and the Future of the Negro," said the yearly preparation of an increasing number of lawyers was a most significant fact in the present life of this country. "The legal profession," the speaker pointed out, "was the last to develop among a people who had been slaves, and it is one of the most important, for the future of this race relates to his practice before the courts of man."

"Our status as citizens has grown very slowly," Dr. Johnson told his audience. "We haven't passed the first milestone in economic status; we haven't passed the first milestone in educational or political status. The fundamental law of the land is on our side, but practice is not on our side. Our great problem is to bring practice up to law."

His advice on the solution of the perplexing position in which we are placed as half citizens was for lawyers throughout the country to enlist their talents and minds in seeing through the courts multitudes of cases successfully presented, emphasizing that we are citizens and confirming the fundamental law of the land.

Pleads for Protection

"We need in the next 25 years," said Dr. Johnson, "great legal minds to carry out every legal decision handed down by the supreme court of the United States, protecting the humblest citizens in the smallest communities. We need men who know and an interpret the law, and they must have means to carry on the cases to fight the representative battles of the poor in a peaceful way before the courts of the country in a continuous cycle of test cases.

"We have not yet enough ability and resources to draw the line between men of narrow mind and those of broad vision. We do not know whether the law is on our side or not because we have not tested it enough to find out what would be the action in a multitude of cases. Our lawyers must be prepared to try legal procedure to utmost limit in an effort to get public opinion to treat all Americans as citizens until they are convinced by thousands of cases that it can't be done."

President Johnson congratulated the profession upon such noble comrades as Clarence Darrow, Arthur Garfield Hayes and Moreñeld Storey.

In closing he asked for a more sympathetic attitude and a wider service of a character that will help in raising racial standards. He advised that we must work for status as well as competency, and that that battle was on for the emancipation of the minds of our people. "When you carry the fight and win the battle for Mary Jones or Sam Smith," declared the speaker, "you fight not only for them but you force the son of Cole Blease to recognize all as American citizens or die an ignoble death."

Thursday morning, with President Homer G. Phillips of St. Louis presiding, Attorney C. J. Waring, the oldest member of the local branch, gave the invocation, which formally opened the convention at the Cook County Bar association building, 4500 Michigan Ave.

The business of the convention moved in rapid and orderly procedure. Attorney A. M. Burroughs, president of the Cook county branch, in his welcome address summarized the object of the meeting as an opportunity to "relate our past experiences, discuss our shortcomings, and lay plans for our future success." Mr. Burroughs was followed by Representative W. E. King, who gave a welcome in behalf of the state, which he said had always shown a most liberal and friendly attitude to the members of the legal profession by giving them representation in important legislative bodies of the state and city, indicating the respect and good will which Illinois feels toward this group.

Extend Welcomes

N. S. Taylor welcomed the members on behalf of the United States government. Mr. Taylor, in paying compliment to the officers of the association, affirmed his belief in the power of the profession. His logic was that with a more concentrated interest and effort exerted by the capable lawyers of America toward questions of prejudice and injustice, the race problem would soon be in the background.

Former President C. H. Calloway of Kansas City, Mo., responded to the addresses. He complimented the local branch in the acquisition of their beautiful new home and the energetic spirit evident in its operation.

There was applause with the entrance of Jesse Binga, president and founder of the Binga State bank, who was introduced by Attorney Phillips. "Nothing appeals to me more than seeing the legal talent of this country getting together," said Mr. Binga "There must be closer relationship between the business men and our lawyers. The old-time idea that a lawyer was only needed to get one out of trouble must be dispelled."

Call for Co-operation

Mr. Binga's sentiments were voiced by Anthony Overton, president of the Overton State bank, who declared that the difficult job facing our lawyers was to restore the confidence of the masses which had been undermined by years of dishonest methods in all professions. He hoped for a more unselfish attitude on the part of the leaders, and a closer and more friendly contact with their clientele.

"The task of our lawyers," said Judge Albert B. George, "is committed to demonstrating our capacity for living up to high standards of leadership. Lawyers are the outstanding citizens of the community," said Judge George, "and the people are proud of them."

Among the out-of-town delegates at the speakers' table, who during the noon luncheon argued for a higher and more idealized view of their profession, were: Attorneys Jesse Heslup, Toledo, Ohio; J. P. Harris, St. Louis, Mo.; S. A. Brunley, Nashville, Tenn.; Emanuel Williams, St. Louis; Williams of Leavenworth, Kans., and Outlaw of St. Louis.

Memorial services were held in the afternoon in honor of the late William C. Matthews, Boston, Mass., former special assistant U. S. attorney general; James T. B. Hill of Indianapolis, Ind., first member to be admitted to the Indiana state bar, and S. B. Turner, formerly of the state legislature.

Friday's schedule began with addresses by Hon. William C. Todd, republic of Panama, and William H. Temple. At the luncheon to out-of-town delegates following, a program was given by the ladies auxiliary, with Mrs. Maude A. George as mistress of ceremonies. Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett, spokeswoman, said she hoped this national meeting meant more than the usual conventions which came together, elected officers and adjourned. She pointed out the great need for educating the masses up to an appreciation for the lawyers of their own race and interpreted this trait as a "national weakness." Mrs. Barnett called attention to the increase of crime and advised a more interested study of the cause and cure, especially among first offenders.

Atty. Edith Sampson, one of the five women members of the county association and an officer of the Portia club, composed of women admitted to the bar of the state, welcomed the guests for the 25 women attorneys of the country. She commented upon their superior preparation for their work and cited instances of high public honors being conferred upon them. She expressed appreciation for the spirit of fraternalism and support they had received from their co-workers.

Robert S. Abbott Speaks

Robert S. Abbott, editor and publisher of The Chicago Defender, and N. K. McGill, general counselor of the Defender and chairman of the publicity committee of the local association, were special guests of the auxiliary.

In a practical talk, Mr. Abbott stressed the necessity of maintaining the high standards of the profession in matters of apeparance, surroundings and general demeanor. "The profession of the future," he contended, "will be largely determined by the standards of the men of the present engaged in its pursuit. Honesty, integrity and ability must be used to drive out the incompetent and unscrupulous, whose methods of practice operate as a setback."

Mr. Abbott said he hoped for lawyers of enthusiasm and ambition, who knew no satisfied complacency, but would press forward toward greater heights. He expressed the hope that this body would not be content until they had secured the rights as American citizens to membership in the great bar association of the state.

Musical numbers were given by Mrs. Anna Grey Carr, Mrs. Stella Bonds, Mrs. Margaret Bonds, Mrs. H. Emmanuel and Theodore Bryant. Officers of the auxiliary are: A. M. Burroughs, president; T. H. Johnson, first vice president; H. M. Tyler, second vice president; S. A. Beadle, third vice president; J. I. Moorehead, general secretary; A. H. Bellamy, financial secretary; William K. Hooks, treasurer, and B. G. Pollard, attorney. The directors are A. B. George, R. H. Hill Jr., G. C. Adams, Violette N. Anderson, M. P. Oldham, C. F. Stradford and N. K. McGill.

New Officers Elected

New officers of the national association are: C. Francis Stradford, Chicago, president; J. P. Harris, St. Louis, Mo., vice president; Irvin Mollison, secretary; Georgia Jones Ellis, Chicago, assistant secretary; W. S. Henry, Indianapolis, treasurer. Regional directors are: O. J. Smith, St. Paul, Minn.; Leland S. Hawkins, San Francisco, Calif.; Jesse Heslup, Toledo, Ohio; William C. Todd, Panama canal zone; L. Amasa Knox, Kansas City, Mo.

National Bar Association Holds Annual Meeting

C. F. Stradford Elected Elected President to Succeed Homer G. Phi'lips; Many Prominent Business and Professional Men on Program.

The National Bar Association met for a two-day session in Chicgo, August 2 and 3. The meetings were held in the magnificent home of the Cook County Bar Asscoiation which was host to this national body of the leading lawyers of the race. Sixty-eight delegates representing the legal profession of eight states were in attendance and held one of the most interesting and constructive conventions which has assembled during the life of the association. Despite the extreme heat of the two days all meetings were well attended and the business of the convention carrid forward with a dignity and order which well became members of the profession.

The convention was called to order by the president, Homer G. Phillips, at ten o'clock Thursday morning, and welcomed to Chicago by Attorney A. M. Burroughs, the president of the Cook County Bar Association. Representative W. H. King welcomed the delegates on behalf of the State of Illinois and Atty. Taylor of the U. S. District Attorney's office, delivered a welcome in behalf of the United States Government. Atty. C. H. Calloway of Kansas City, former president of the organization, responded to the addresses on behalf of the National Bar. Immediately after the morning session, out of town delegates were tendered a luncheon at which time many visitors paid stirring tributes to the progress members of the race have made in the profession.

© A.N.P.
Homer G. Phillips

Among those at the speakers' table were Attorneys Ignatius Page, Emanuel Williams, J. P. Harris, and E. S. Outlaw of St. Louis; DeFrance Williams of Leavenworth, Kansas, Jesse Heslip, Toledo, Ohio; John Adams, Omaha, Nebr.; and Orlando J. Smith of St. Paul, Minn. Memorial services were held at the afternoon session for the late William C. Matthews of Boston, Mass., formerly special assistant to the U. S. Attorney General; S. B. Turner, of Chicago, formerly of the Illinois State Legislature, and Hon. Jas. T. Hill, Indianapolis, Ind. In the evening a reception and lawn party was tendered the visiting delegates by the Cook County Bar Association at their beautiful homes.

Interest

Business Sessions Hold Public

On Friday morning at the opening session the Hon. William H. Temple, Chicago attorney, delivered an address upon the subject: "Observations on the Art of Trying a Law Suit." Much enlightened and a favorable discussion followed the address. Luncheon with a delightful program of music and short addresses was provided by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Cook County Bar Association immediately afte rthe morning session. Mrs. Maude A. George, wife of Judge Albert B. George, was the gracious mistress of ceremonies. Mrs. Ida B. Wells Barnett, pioneer club woman and Atty. Edith Spurlock Sampson were the principal speakers.

The final session was opened on Friday afternoon by a stirring address from Homer K. Phillips, president, in which he recounted the achievements of the association, outlined the responsibility, which rests upon members of the profession and urged a closer cooperation between members of the bar with other business and professional groups. He concluded by making an appeal for all members to uphold and advance the standards of the profession. Following the president's address, the regular business of the association was taken up and reports heard from the various committees.

Delegates Go on Record for Federal Re-Apportionment

Among the great body of legislation presented and passed upon by the delegates of the National Bar Association was a resolution petitioning Congress to make a re-apportionment in the House of Representatives for those states in which Negroes are disfranchised or otherwise denied the rights of full citizenship. The resolution was passed after a heated and lengthy debate as to the manner in which the resolution should appear in its final form and the advisability of the Association committing itself at this time.

New Officers Elected for the Ensuing Year

C. Francis Stradford, Chicago attorney, was elected to the presidency by an unanimous vote. The other officers elected were: J. P. Harris, St. Louis, Mo., vice president; Irvin C. Mollison, Chicago, secretary; Mrs. Georgia Jones Ellis, Chicago, assistant secretary; W. F. Henry, Indianapolis, Ind., treasurer. Regional directors: Leland Hawkins, San Francisco, Cal.; Orlando J. Smith, St. Paul, Minn.; Amas L. Knox, Kansas City, Mo.; William C. Todd, Republic of Panama.

Many prominent Citizens Pay Respects to Bar

The open sessions of the convention were attended by many prominent Chicago citizens in the business and professional world. Among those who paid their respects to the legal profession thru givng their personal endorsement to the program of the National Bar Association were Anthony Overton, president of Victory Life Insurance Company and Douglass National Bank; [illegible], banker and realtor; Judge Albert B. George of the Municpal Court Bench; Hon. Robert S. Abbott, of the Defender; Hon. Oscar DePriest, former alderman and now candidate for Congress from the First Congressional District of Illinois.

D. Mordecai Johnson Addresses Public Meeting

A great public gathering was sponsored by the National Bar Association in the auditorium of the Wendell Phillips High School the last night of the convention. Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, delivered the principal address and brought to a fitting concusion the activities of the annual convention of lawyers. He spoke on the subject: "The Legal Profession and the Negro." Dr. Johnson held the vast audience spellbound while he pointed out the great responsibility which lies upon the lawyers of the race to serve faithfully and competently in its fight to gain status and civil justice. He urged upon all members of the bar to seek constantly to lift the standards of their profession and provide the race with a leadership that is prepared and willing to serve it unselfishly.

Lawyers - 1928.

New York.

N. Y. WOMAN LAWYER TO TEST CIVIL RIGHTS

NEW YORK.—Ruth Whitehead Whaley, the only active Negro woman lawyer in New York, fieled suit Tuesday, against the Eastern Steamship Lines, Inc., and the Old Dominion Line, Inc., for alleged violation of the Civil Rights Law.

Mrs. Whaley stated in her declaration that in June, 1926, she had engaged by phone a de luxe suite for herself and her husband for passage from New York to Norfolk. When she went on board, however, she was told by the purser that there was no room on the salon deck. Because of that they were relegated to a segregated Negro section.

The defendants claim that the State Civil Rights law has no juris-

Whaley, Ruth Whitehead

NEW YORK WORLD

NOV 11 1928

Negro Clerk Will Soon Be a Member of Bar

Charles J. Greene Will Enter Legal Department of New York Central

By Lester A. Walton

"GENTLEMEN, this will be the last time that Greene will help you on with your overcoats."

The foregoing statement was made by Albert H. Harris, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the New York Central Railroad, to George F. Baker and Jackson Reynolds of the First National Bank.

Mr. Harris told the noted financiers that Charles J. Greene, who for ten years had faithfully and efficiently served him—first as attendant and then as clerk—was soon to become a member of the bar and was being transferred to the company's legal department.

Greene said it was a happy moment for him long to be remembered when the two bank officials extended congratulations wishing him future success.

Charles J. Greene has not been admitted to practice. His record of achievement to date to evoke encomiums is not as a lawyer but as a struggling young Negro who for five years worked in the day to support his wife, daughter and mother and went to school at night.

His experience parallels that encountered by nine out of ten Negroes who to-day ultimately reach the coveted goal after consistently bucking adversity.

"Charlie" Green, as he is known in Harlem, was a clerk in the Post Office. During the World War his brother, Granville, who had been an attendant for Albert H. Harris, was drafted and died of pneumonia. "Charlie" was offered Granville's job, which he accepted

After five years as attendant "Charlie" concluded to become a lawyer. He made known his hopes and aspirations to Mr. Harris, who advanced him to the status of a clerk in order that he might receive an increase in salary.

For two years "Charlie" Greene attended Fordham College, and for three years was a student at the Fordham Law School. During this entire period he seldom went to bed until 11 or 12 o'clock, as some evenings he was in the class room until 10.30. He had to be at work in the morning at 8.45. In June he was graduated from law school, and subsequently passed the State bar examinations.

On Nov. 1, Greene became a junior clerk in the legal departmente of the New York Central Railroad, the first of his race to fill such a position. After acquiring valuable experience he plans to open a law office in Harlem. He expects to be admitted to practice in the near future.

The New York Central Lines Magazine gives the following account:

"Almost daily, it seems, on the New York Central, an outstanding example of perseverance, an heroic act or a story of extraordinary character development is unfolded. These stories are never disappointing. They are, it would appear, a basic argument for the value of railroading in character building and a justification for the New York Central's position in the public eye.

Relative to the assistance rendered Greene by his employer, it might be said that thousands of Negroes have hurdled what seemed insurmountable barriers, thanks to the sympathetic cooperation of white friends of Albert H. Harris's type.

ASPIRES TO BAR

Charles J. Greene

North Carolina.

Lawyers-1928

"NORTH CAROLINA HAS FINEST SET OF JUDGES," SAYS DURHAM ATTORNEY

R. McCants Andrews Observes the Courts, Juries, Police Circles, Public Sentiment and Newspapers In "Old North State."

By FLOYD J. CALVIN

DURHAM, N. C., Aug. 30.—Attorney R. McCants Andrews, of Durham, who last week in an interview discussed the South and the Negro lawyer, this week takes up for observation the courts, juries, police circles, public sentiment and the newspapers in North Carolina. Attorney Andrews, during eight years of practice in Durham, has won a large percentage of his cases, including four notable cases. The first was the Norfleet case, in which Susan Norfleet, administratrix of her deceased husband's estate, sued a white insurance company. Her husband died of pernicious anemia, and Attorney Andrews put eight experts on the stand to support his case, including two Negro surgeons, three Negro physicians, one white clinician, one white specialist and one white chiropractor. The insurance company settled for the full amount asked and costs before the case went to the jury. The second is the Towns case, where the city of Henderson, N. C., and the County of Vance, sued the estate of Melissa Towns, for $26,000, held in trust by the Mechanics and Farmers Bank of Durham, for back taxes which would have wiped out the estate. Attorney Andrews represented the bank and had four white lawyers associated with him. The case was compromised for payment of $3,000. The third is a damage suit growing out of a collision, in which an interurban bus collided with an automobile containing Negro passengers. One man died of the accident and a woman got her skull fractured. Attorney Andrews won a $6,900 verdict, the largest total ever won in a North Carolina damage suit by Negroes. The case was on trial four days. The fourth case was criminal. The State of North Carolina was against John Martin and Geneva McMillan, colored, in a charge of first degree murder for killing a white man. Attorney Andrews put up such a defense that the State's case was weakened and after the first day of the trial a compromise was reached whereby the woman was submitted for manslaughter on an agreed verdict of 12 months, and the man was submitted for second degree murder and drew a sentence of 15 years. It had been boasted that the two would get the chair.

Speaking of the attitude of the courts in North Carolina, Attorney Andrews said: "North Carolina has the finest set of judges in the South and its Supreme Court decisions have long been recognized with great respect all over the country. Each county has a Superior Court which is the Court of Record, and the judges of the Superior Courts are the main protectors of the oppressed. They have punished mob members severely, charged grand juries to investigate peonage and crop-cheating and have protected and defended the rights of the poor and lowly."

Speaking of the juries, he said: "It can be said with candor and pride that North Carolina juries are fairer and more intelligent than juries I have read about in other parts of the country. My experience convinces me that frequent miscarriages of justice in the South more often occur because of a lack of interested and courageous counsel than because of the juries bent to do injustice because of color or caste. The Negro mass is almost wholly dependent upon white counsel. The average white lawyer has little in common with his client, does not know the current facts of Negro life and fails to interpret his client and his social conditions to the jury. On this account a well prepared Negro attorney is often more successful in representing his own people. But there are many exceptions all over the South and the best men of the Bar take a pride in championing the elemental rights of the race. There is a class of white practitioners, however, who do not hesitate to play upon the prejudices of the jurymen and who use the word 'nigger' and 'darky' in the court trials to convey a debased opinion of the Negro litigant or defendant whom they are opposing. In one instance in this state the presiding judge admonished counsel to refer to the Negro defendant by calling him by his name. In another instance in Virginia a white attorney referred to one of his colored associates at the bar as 'this nigger.' He was promptly fined by the presiding judge for contempt, and made due apologies."

Referring to police departments, Attorney Andrews said: "Police departments wield an important influence upon the lower courts. Policemen are very human in their reactions; like all other people. They are engaged in keeping the peace and when they make arrests they like to secure convictions. They frequently make mistakes because they do not know better, but I find they are willing to say a good word at any time for a man of good character. It may naturally be expected that prominent white lawyers and politicians have a larger influence with them than many others. A great deal, however, depends upon the Chief of Police. The city manager form of government which is growing in this state has removed the Chief of Police from politics, and this is leading to a development of first class police departments in our leading cities. Some departments send their crack men to Northern departments for study and observation."

"The public sentiment among whites in North Carolina," said Attorney Andrews, "as to Negro practitioners is, for the most part, wholesome and complimentary. One may advance and obtain favor in the same proportion as he is prepared to do so, with due recognition of the courtesies that ought to be extended in meeting strangers. I have appeared in 19 North Carolina counties, most of the time alone, but many times with the assistance of local white counsel. I have also appeared with and against other Negro counsel, and with and against white counsel. In a number of instances I have occupied the center of the stage as the 'First Negro Lawyer' ever to appear in that county, city or court house. At no time have I noticed any revolt or stampede on the part of the white spectators and in many instances they have 'turned out' admiringly and enjoyed the exhibition.' I have noted that the court officials and members of the bar are usually courteous and considerate wherever one makes himself agreeable, and juries do not hesitate to respond to effective pleas. The North Carolina Negro lawyers whom I have named before are held in very high esteem in the districts where they have practiced for many years."

Regarding the white newspapers, Attorney Andrews said: "North Carolina has an enlightened press. For the most part news is news. The big dailies often make mention of the work of Negro attorneys by name, just as they do in the case of white attorneys. This is in large part due to the traditions long since established by the press of this state as well as to the employment of young, broadminded editors and reporters. There are notable and unexpected exceptions, although they are few."

Lawyers - 1928.

Pennsylvania.

PITTSBURGH, PA.

Press

SEP 28 1928

Seek Negro Magistrate.

Appointment of Frank R. Steward, a Negro attorney, as a police magistrate to succeed John J. Verona, was asked in a petition presented yesterday to Mayor Kline. The petition was signed by 60 persons, most of them residents of the Third or Fifth ward.

Lawyers - 1928.

Tennessee.

E. T. News Editor Now Full Fledged Lawyer

Webster L. Porter, for more than twenty years editor and publisher of The East Tennessee News, was one of the seventy-seven successful candidates for admission to the Tennessee bar, out of the one hundred and nine who took the examination in Nashville January 27-28, last. Following a session of the board of law examiners in the city of Memphis, last week, the secretary of the board notified Mr. Porter of his having passed the examination successfully and of the board's action on voting him license to practice law in the courts of Tennessee.

LAWYER!

WEBSTER L. PORTER

Who received notice last week of his success in passing the state bar examination which provides license to practice in Tennessee courts.

Few of the editor's friends were aware of his aspirations to pass the bar, and his name being listed along with the group of successful candidates together with articles telling of his success in the daily press of last Sunday, produced a surprise among the local populace. The report was the signal for scores of telephone calls, local and from points throughout the state, as well as verbal expressions of congratulations, coming from many friends.

In commenting on his success in being admitted to the bar, Editor Porter stated:

Much of my spare time during the last few years has been devoted to study of law subjects with a view of passing the bar examination, but the fact that I have secured license to practice law doesn't mean that any of my interest or activities in connection with publishing The East Tennessee News, will be curtailed. I find my greatest pleasure in editing and publishing the newspaper, and while I expect to devote some time to practice in the courts, such will be based on a desire to assist the many unfortunate members of our racial group who fall into the toils of the law and find themselves without friendly legal advice."

Has Had Much Experience.

Aside from the experience which Mr. Porter has had during his activities about the courts in the capacity of a newspaper man, he was granted county license several years ago to practice in the lower courts of Knox county, and on several occasions he has managed important cases with the exhibition of such natural ability as to elicit surprise and praise from court officials.

Many Extend Congratulations.

Among the muchly appreciated congratulations which have been received by Mr. Porter, anent this signal accomplishment, is a letter from Hon. Walter S. Walker, learned attorney of Nashville, in which he writes:

"Congratulations! On reading the morning paper, The Tennessean, I noticed your name listed among those who were successful in passing the State Bar Examination, held here during the month of January, last.

"I wish to commend you to the practice, and to wish you great success as a practitioner

"The interests of the Negro, especially in the cities of this great commonwealth, warrant adequate Negro representation at the Bar. If you intend to enter the actual practice, Nashville, I am sure would welcome you into its midst.

"With best wishes for you.

"Sincerely,"

"WALTER S. WALKER."

Lawyers - 1928

Virginia

NEWS
RICHMOND, VA.

JUL 23 1928

NAMES ROBERTSON AS COMMISSIONER

Appointment by Gunn of Negro Arouses Comment in City.

The appointment of a Negro attorney, J. C. Robertson, as one of the new commissioners in chancery by Judge Julien Gunn in city circuit court, has aroused considerable comment in Richmond, and is being used in current political arguments, it was learned today.

Robertson, a practicing lawyer, was appointed by Judge Gunn on April 12. He was endorsed by a number of members of the Richmond bar, both white and Negro. His duties largely are in connection with litigation among the Negroes, including the taking of evidence in divorce cases, it is said. The assembly of 1928 passed a bill requiring that evidence in divorce cases be taken before commissioners in chancery rather than before notaries.

Other commissioners in chancery appointed recently by Judge Gunn include D. C. O'Flaherty, Collins Denny, Jr., John B. Minor and Mrs. Julia E. Nuckols.

Lawyers - 1928

West Virginia

Pittsburg Courier

Letters to the Editor

Pittsburgh Pa.

V 2 1 28

Charleston, W. Va., Jan. 11, 1928.

Dear Editor:

The West Virginia Negro Bar Association held a meeting in the city of Charleston, W. Va., on December 31, 1927, at which time preparation was made for a general meeting and election of officers, such meeting and election to be held in Charleston on February 22, 1928. Those present on December 31 were as follows: J. M. Ellis, who for the past ten years has served as president of the association; T. G. Nutter, Brown W. Payne, Julius Lovejoy, C. E. Kingsough, Sr., and Clinton W. Dickerson.

The members mentioned above are but a small fraction of the Negro lawyers of this state. During the meeting letters were read from various attorneys offering excuses for their absence, such excuses ranging all the way from the "ailments of Job" down to the frivolities of Gump in the comic sections of our daily papers. One gentleman wrote that he was not disposed to segregate himself to the extent of meeting a strictly "Negro" bar association. What bar association will the counselor meet? Only last week the newspapers of the country carried an article informing us that an attorney of this state, who is a gentleman, a scholar and a graduate of Pennsylvania University, had been denied membership in the American Bar Association because of his color. The refusal to the individual is a refusal to the entire group of that same color. I would advise a check-up on "color" for determining whether or not it will be expedient to attend the Negro Bar Association. Just as the white lawyer excludes the Negro lawyer from his association, in order to privately discuss affairs pertaining to his practice and the welfare of his people, the Negro lawyer is entitled to and should hold a private session while discussing affairs pertaining to his people and practice. The lawyers of any group, type or class of people are charged with the sacred responsibility of protecting and defending the liberties, privileges and properties of such people. As a whole, such defenses may be more effectively made by concerted action on the part of the lawyers and a thorough understanding between them.

The contact afforded by meeting the association and the real value to be derived therefrom must not sink into oblivion. Perhaps some of the more successful lawyers of the state feel that they are too busy to give the time; while some of the less fortunate may feel that they are unable to sacrifice the time from their offies, yet we trust that each individual concerned will find as many good reasons for being present at the Negro Bar Association meeting on February 22, 1928, as they found for being absent on December 31, 1927.

CLINTON W. DICKERSON.

P. O. Box 1039.